

Evening Public Ledger THE EVENING TELEGRAPH PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY... EDITORIAL BOARD: Cyrus H. K. Curtis, Chairman... DAVID R. SMILEY, Editor... JOHN C. MARTIN, General Business Manager...

THE VICTORY DRAFT

It Will Justify That Name If We Use the Best Man Power Available, Young or Old... THE prime reasons for speedy passage of the new draft bill are as simple as they are overwhelming. It is no secret that the essential object of the legislation is the creation of a military machine which will enable America and the Allies to end the war conclusively in the right way next year.

Every forecast is, of course, humanly fallible. But the odds in favor of the accuracy of this one are at the present moment sufficiently preponderating to make any failure to grasp the opportunity criminal folly. To stress this general point is almost superfluous. Every patriot is eager to finish the war as quickly and as completely as possible.

Part of this opposition is from chronic obstructionists, not intentionally unpatriotic but pervasively zealous in espousing the other side of even the clearest issues. The bulk of it, however, though mistaken, is sincere. The weakness of this side of the case lies in the injection of sentiment into a situation in which it does not belong.

When the regular sessions of Congress are resumed some of its members will unquestionably draw pathetic pictures of the sacrifice of the nation's youth involved in drafting "mere boys" into the army. We have no desire to minimize the feelings of mothers for whose sons a tragic fate may be in store.

So far as the men in the ranks were concerned, the Civil War was won by the youth of the North—boys under twenty. The most useful soldier in the vast modern armies is the young one. Armed strife is a pitiful business, but the speediest means of ending it will avert a thousand other pities.

The eighteen to forty-five age limits provided for in the Administration's bill should stand, not because they will not work hardships—the terribly unessential business of war always does—but because they make for the highest armed efficiency. That factor is the one indispensable to the Government's purposes.

To approach the question on any other basis is to enter a maze of complexities. It has been argued that no one should be made to fight who is not entitled to vote. In that case there are adult Washingtonians in the army who have been unjustly treated, to say nothing of Porto Ricans, who have no share in presidential elections, and Hawaiians, living under the rule of an appointed governor.

On the other hand, where consideration can be shown without weakening America's strength it should be. That is the whole purpose of the selective draft, and it will be significantly executed if adaptable young men, fired with the enthusiasm of youth, unconcerned in vital industries and exempt from family responsibilities, are enlisted.

It is a cruel but incontestable fact that there can be no ethical appraisal as to who should bear the burden of war. If our most objectionable middle-aged citizens could be developed into the best soldiers it would be a fine thing to send them to fight the Hun. Every nation would enjoy victories won by the least possible sacrifices.

The problems here involved, however, are too baffling for human ingenuity. In blazing the way to world security there is only one question to be asked: What is the best material for the ugly but necessary job which will bring such immeasurable rewards? And when that is solved there is only one sane injunction, "Use it."

IN THE quickening tendency to centralized control of all business, we in America are like the carefree men in the South. We don't know where we are going, but we are on our way. The Federal Administration, which has done its best to reverse all our familiar practices, may be aware of the name and the nature of our ultimate destination. But it will not tell. There isn't time, apparently. The war overshadows all else. Ends and consequences aren't discernible in the dust of effort.

Mr. Burleson caused it to be known in Philadelphia yesterday that he wants the Bell and the Keystone telephone systems merged at once. At the same moment, it was proposed formally that the Federal Government take over the most

business and absorb the packers and their systems. The fervor of the concentration theory is rising daily at Washington. And there is an unvarying explanation for each new adventure in Government control. We are informed that the competitive system is wasteful and that it is unsuited to the high efficiency necessary to win the war.

Estimates must be made to suit the times. And yet it is not enough to say of the competitive system, in meat packing or telegraphy or railroading, that it is wasteful. The competitive system may be called wasteful now because it employs great numbers of men and women who, if they are dispossessed of their jobs, may easily find useful, comfortable and profitable employment in the industries stimulated by the war.

It remains to be seen whether Mr. McAdoo or Mr. Burleson will be clever enough to suggest future occupations for those who may ultimately be left without employment in the process of concentration.

The passion for formalism of operation and control in all industry seems limitless in the President's Cabinet. And it is uncomfortably suggestive, at times, of the trend which brought the detestation of the whole world on Germanized efficiency.

Ordinarily we wouldn't recommend it to Cuba, but "raising cane" down there is an excellent way of relieving the sugar shortage.

THE CITY'S WAR BUDGET ANY ONE who wishes to see the devastation and chaos of war at the high tide should keep an eye upon the financial side of the City Administration in the near future. Elemental darkness and confusion seem immediately ahead. The budgets proposed by the various department chiefs for the coming year represent a grand total of about \$50,000,000 and an increase of approximately \$11,000,000 over the budgets of the current fiscal year.

The estimates appear inevitable and, on the whole, fair enough under the circumstances. The city cannot keep efficient men in its employ unless it pays higher wages. It cannot purchase materials without paying current high prices. The disintegration of the police and fire departments can be averted only through increased salaries.

Yet it is doubtful whether the required funds can be made available. The superior jobs at City Hall and the large expenditures which these jobs necessitate will be a fatal irritation in this instance. The thought of a vast sum expended annually in unnecessary salaries and the persistent dominance of the expensive theory of patronage will certainly confuse the public temper and hinder the city in any effort that may be made to meet the emergency.

There is a diverting side to the matter. It is odd to realize that the principle of feudalism has been rejected everywhere in the world but in the Teutonic countries and in the American system of municipal government. No one has ever been able to estimate with pencil and paper the sums expended each year in the interest of the upkeep of the favorites and dependents who swarm about all political leaders. A determined consideration of this sort of waste is likely to be made imperative by increasing financial stresses and forced economy in the administration of the city's affairs.

Certainly until the Mayor and his associates and the members of Council manifest a willingness to economize at the place where the waste is most conspicuous, the people will not be in any mood to accept a new tax increase.

If the whole system of municipal administration is not to go to pieces it will be necessary not only to economize, but to find a source of increased income. There is no sign now to indicate that Mayor Smith's Administration will be able to do either without great delay and matchless travail.

The consequence of the proposed budget is likely to be a tie-up in Council, speeches, recommitment, outcries and lost motion. Ultimately, in all probability, the police will have to go without the increased pay which they should have had long ago. The fire department will remain dissatisfied and underpaid. Essential repairs and improvements will be postponed or abandoned. But life will continue to be easy and comfortable in the nonessential jobs at City Hall and elsewhere.

Public opinion was tolerant of this sort of thing in the easy days of peace and plenty. But it isn't tolerant now. The sum wasted by the city government is not the thing to consider. It is the principle involved that is irritating. The Mayor will be wise to realize this before he and his aides get in a hopeless and disastrous tangle.

Recalling that one of Henry W. Watterston's most passionate desires was to see the Hun humbled, it becomes easy to understand his vaudeville remark that "all his ambitions have been gratified."

Restrictions on sugar ought to count for comparatively little as the still more indispensable sweets of victory increase daily.

FOUND—In the neighborhood of this office, number of calories for which we have no pressing use. Any one who will remove them may have them.

SINCE YOU INSIST

EVERY now and then you have to hand it to New York. It was a New Yorker who thought of saying "Pop goes the Weeie."

We can never resist a good poem about a dog, and when our ten-year-old neighbor, Norman Powell, brought over the poem he has written about Mike, his Alreidae terrier, we were delighted. And Mike says it's the best poem he ever read. Here it is:

To My Dog Against the baseboard there he lies, With tawny back and fast-closed eyes, His nose, a shiny knob of black, Has often smelled his master's track. I love my dog and he loves me— My faithful friend he'll always be.

What He Said The Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Lane, recently has presented a remarkable and, in a most intelligent and worthy and valuable treatise as to his

What He Meant Mr. Lane has presented a very able report on this matter. The Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Lane, recently has presented a remarkable and, in a most intelligent and worthy and valuable treatise as to his

Two Kentuckians It wouldn't be a bad thing for some of those long-winded lads in Washington to recall Abraham Lincoln's brief biography as he jotted it down for the Congressional Record in 1847. Brevity is no longer a virtue, it seems. Take this home and try it on the pipe organ:

DAVID H. KINCHELOE, Democrat, born Feb. 12, 1809, in Harborton on a farm near Madison County, Ky. Education, defective. Profession, a lawyer. Has been captured in order to human beings, my kindredness might postpone for another lifetime

He Has His Troubles The Kaiser is having a good deal of trouble making up his mind where to spend his vacation this summer. He does not care for Marne any more; Picardy isn't safe; Berlin won't have him at any price, and Kiel is said to be in a peevish mood. He has been warned away from Austria, so it looks as though he'd have to join Lenin and Trotsky if he is to have any fun at all.

Sailing on Sunday Listening to a sermon on Free Will I was out sailing. Ripple-ripple-sang the cool green water Along the boat's hull, The morning sun glided the canvas, And the wind, gliding against the cheek of the sail

ONE period of my childhood my dearest friend was a white dog named Shiro. My father was very fond of dogs, and from the time I can remember he always had one or two. Shiro was virtually mine, but, of course, I could not call him mine, as it was considered rude and unbecomingly for a girl to own a dog. But I talked with him, played with him and even ran races with him in the privacy of the garden. I strongly suspect the women of my family looked upon me with disapproval, but I was all ears to my father and was allowed privileges not accorded to my elder and less active sisters.

AS WE were a Buddhist family, we ate no meat except fish, and on holy days even that was not on the table. One day, on the anniversary of an ancestor, it chanced that Shiro was sick. I was greatly troubled, for I had a childish feeling that if he could eat he would get well, but as we had only vegetables for dinner there were no good scraps for poor Shiro. My kind nurse saw my anxiety and smuggled me some fishbones from somewhere, which I took to a distant part of the garden and crushed between two flat stones. Then I mixed them with bean soup from the table and took them to the kindling shed, where Shiro was lying on his straw mat. Poor Shiro looked grateful, but he would not get up, and, thinking perhaps he was cold, I ran to my room and brought out my crepe cushion to cover him.

WHEN this became known to my grand-mother she sent for me to come to her room. The moment I lifted my face after bowing I knew this was not one of the times when I was to be entertained with sweet bean cake. "Little Etanuko," she said very sternly, "I must speak to you of something very important. I am told you wrapped Shiro with your flat stones."

THE Germans are now saying that they withdrew from the Rhets silent because it was a cul de sac. They tried their best to make it a cul de sac.

"Little Women" has been filmed for the movies, and we are wondering what Miss Theda Bara will think of it.

DOVE DULCET. Started at her tone, I meekly bowed.

THAT'S SETTLED!



THE SOCIAL STANDING OF DOGS

Japanese Ideas of Canine Welfare By Etsu Inagaki Sugimoto

EVERY the most loyal of Japanese must acknowledge that our country is a land of contradictions, for every custom has its two sides—the ideal and the practical. This is shown nowhere more clearly than in our attitude toward dogs.

Some special tributes have been paid to dogs by our greatest writers, artists and warriors. One of the best-known novels in Japanese literature, written by Bakin, a novelist and philosopher who lived about 200 years ago, is a wonderful tribute to the eight virtues of dogs—duty, courage, intelligence, loyalty, faithfulness, sincerity, unselfishness and friendship.

Many of the most intimate customs of the land, those pertaining to babies and little children, are celebrated on Dog Day—calculated by the ancient zodiacal calendar. This denotes a trust, almost a prayer, that the wee ones may absorb the qualities of healthfulness, faithfulness and steadfast loyalty.

AN AMERICAN friend, living in Tokio, once said to me that she could not understand how it is that the Japanese, who are such strong believers in transmigration, are not more kind to dumb animals. I told her it is the belief in transmigration which causes so many of us to be negligent and indifferent to the discomfort of animals.

AN ENGLISH lady in Tokio had for several years a jirrikisha-puller who was her most loyal admirer. One day a little brown puppy was presented to her, and it soon became the pride of its owner's heart. Starting out to call on a friend one afternoon she placed the little dog on the cushion of the jirrikisha and was about to step in herself when she noticed that her man, instead of waiting with his usual happy bow, was standing back and gravely watching the dog on the cushion.

THE golden age for dogs in Japan was during the reign of the fourth Shogun of the Tokugawa dynasty. He was born in dog year, 1681. Probably from superstitious belief, he did not allow any dogs to be killed during his lifetime. Indeed, they were treated better than most of the common people for the penalty for killing a dog was far heavier than that for the murder of a coolie. It was during this reign that one of the Dutch envoys from Nagasaki made the mistake of falling to bow to a dog in the Shogun's train and thereby came near losing his head.

Notwithstanding the prospects of the passage of a draft law placing the age limit under twenty-one, only three lads below that age applied for marriage licenses at the City Hall last week. Just because one kind of selective service is so near our marriageable young men evidently take that circumstance as no precedent for rushing into another variety.

The report that "Vienna's electric tramways are in bad shape" need not necessarily indicate that the enemy is at her gates. Transit bills have been known to be just as prevalent in cities more than 1000 miles from the battlefield.

THE ENCORE

OH, THE First was not less than colossal. Just cause for libations of wassail, For the crowds locked in hand-clasping jostle— But, lads, the Second Marne!

The first was a clarion, "Tention!" In a veller of faithless dissension; The Second God's "honorable mention"— Accolade of the Marne.

The First was a gleam none too hardy, Avant courier through Picardy, That breaks now divinely tardy— A rainbow on the Marne.

AS, this is the First Marne ignited, A beacon four years has not blighted, By its own smoldering embers relighted— Deathless the Second Marne. STANLEY KIDDER WILSON.

Domestic Surprises The man who takes a wife as a helpmeet often finds that he has adopted a boss— Chicago Herald and Examiner.

Vacation Note Fred William Hohenzollern is home from the Marne, where he has been spending two or three weeks and several hundred thousand German livers.—Syracuse Herald.

What Do You Know? QUIZ 1. What are the "Artili"? 2. What are the capital and the largest city of... 3. Who is General Seminoof? 4. What are "consols"? 5. What are the symbols of the Evangelists? 6. Where is the largest library in the United States? 7. What is the poetical name of England? 8. What is the legend of Saint George and the Dragon? 9. Where and what is the Escheria? 10. Who said, "No nobler feeling than this, of admiration for one higher than himself, dwells in the breast of man. It is to this hour and in all hours the vivifying influence in man's life?"

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz 1. Friedrich Anton Meuser (1754-1815); a German physician, called the discoverer of mesmerism, though he really only assumed something that was known from the time of the Greeks and Egyptians. 2. Camp Sheridan is at Montgomery, Ala. 3. Colonus of Rhodes; a brass statue, one of the wonders of the world, outside the entrance of the port of Rhodes. 4. Admiral Reinhardt Scheer, formerly commander of the German Battle fleet, named after his uncle, Admiral von Holtzendorf (the chief of the Admiralty staff. 5. Curfew bell: An evening bell which rang at a certain hour, and which, when it had been extinguished, from a coronation of a French word "couvre feu" (cover fire). 6. Fabian policy; a military strategy of delay and avoidance which keeps the enemy at bay and wears him out. Named from Quintus Fabius Maximus Verrucosus ("The Delayer"), who successfully opposed the invasion of Italy by Hannibal by these tactics. 7. Kauldskask; a town in Russian Land in which the Entente envoys retired from Volodga. 8. Daniel Webster was called "Exponner of the Constitution," also called to Chief Justice John Marshall. 9. Columbia is the poetical name of the United States. 10. "Every man feels instinctively that all the beautiful moments in the world which have had no leveler action" was said by John Ruskin in "The Stones of Venice" and "The Architecture of Venice."